

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 2010

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
229 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman, Ranking Member Barton and Representative Burgess:

I am writing in response to your letter dated February 17, 2010, wherein you request information relating to “all agreements entered into in writing between the White House and any private party, including individuals, groups, associations, or companies” relating to “any of the following 111th Congress healthcare bills: H.R. 3200, H.R. 3590, H.R. 3962, S. 1679, or S. 1796.” We have undertaken a review to determine whether the White House has information responsive to this request and based on that review, we have concluded that no such agreements exist. I understand that you sent a similar request for such information to the Department of Health and Human Services, so I am copying Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on this reply.

I note that the materials previously provided to Chairman Waxman and Representative Burgess under cover of my letter dated January 26, 2010, included information relating to White House discussions and meetings with a broad range of organizations and associations representing participants in our health care system, including doctors, hospitals, health insurers, healthcare workers, pharmaceutical companies, device manufacturers, and the elderly. More specifically, the materials previously provided included the following:

- The text of remarks delivered by the President on May 11, 2009, describing a meeting he held that day with various healthcare-related groups. In his remarks, the President described the pledge these groups made to do their part to cut healthcare costs by 1.5% each year. We also provided a list of the individuals and organizations that participated

in that meeting, including Administration officials, as well as subsequent correspondence between the President and representatives of these groups further discussing the pledge and how the participating groups proposed to meet the goal.

- The text of remarks delivered by the President on June 20, 2009, relating to an agreement reached between the Senate Finance Committee and the nation's pharmaceutical companies to reduce the price of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries. In his remarks, the President expressed the Administration's support for the agreement. We also included follow-up remarks by the President on June 22, 2009, further discussing this agreement, the Administration's participation in the discussions, and the AARP's support for the proposal.
- The text of remarks delivered by the Vice President on July 8, 2009, relating to an agreement between the Senate Finance Committee and the hospital industry to develop proposals that would produce \$155 billion in savings in federal health care spending over ten years. In his remarks, the Vice President discussed the Administration's support for the agreement.

In addition, we included with my previous letter White House visitor records for certain healthcare-related meetings. As I stated in that letter, the President is firmly committed to increasing transparency in government, and on September 4, 2009, he announced a groundbreaking new policy requiring the voluntary disclosure of White House visitor records created after September 15, with limited exceptions. This is the first time in history that any Administration has disclosed this information on an ongoing basis. We hope you find these materials helpful, and please let us know if any other members of the Committee would like copies as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Bauer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert F. Bauer
Counsel to the President

Cc: The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius